

INTELLIGENCE

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Austria/USSR

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SUBJECT USIA Plans to Liquidate the Central Commercial Bureau

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1. A few days ago Vladimir Tikhomirov, Soviet Director of USIA, advised one of his salesmen that USIA is drawing up plans for the establishment of an Austrian sales organization to succeed the Central Commercial Bureau which is scheduled for liquidation by 1 January 1951.* According to present plans this organization will assume responsibility for the sale of USIA products and USIA firms will, once again, handle the procurement of their own raw materials.
2. In view of the fact that USIA's financial statements of 1 July 1950 have revealed that most USIA firms are operating at a loss and many are on the verge of bankruptcy, USIA employees believe this plan was prompted by the Soviets' desire to unload USIA's debts on individual USIA firms.

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Comment: This same source reported that Tikhomirov was suddenly recalled to the USSR at the end of July 1950. It is possible that he may have been called home for conferences on USIA policy, although source is inclined to believe he has been recalled to military service.

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This document is hereby regraded to **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

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